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NEWS RELEASE

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Ministry of Forests
Chief Forester's Office

ARROWSMITH ALLOWABLE ANNUAL CUT REDUCED

VICTORIA – The allowable annual cut for the Arrowsmith timber supply area will be reduced by about seven per cent, British Columbia chief forester Larry Pedersen announced today.

Effective Oct.1, the allowable annual cut will be 373,300 cubic metres, a decrease of 26,700 cubic metres.

"The area available for harvesting has decreased, so a reduction in the allowable annual cut is necessary to ensure long-term sustainability," Pedersen said.

The new harvest level includes 6,300 cubic metres per year for red alder stands and 13,700 cubic metres per year for Clayoquot Sound, both unchanged from their current levels.

The last timber supply review for the Arrowsmith timber supply area was completed in 1996, when the allowable annual cut was set at 400,000 cubic metres. The new allowable annual cut is still considerably higher than the actual average harvest level in the Arrowsmith timber supply area from 1998 to 2000 of 290,000 cubic metres per year.

The Arrowsmith timber supply area is made up of small parcels of Crown land totalling about 170,000 hectares on the southern half of Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands. The timber supply area includes Ucluelet, Tofino, Port Alberni, Parksville, Qualicum Beach, Nanaimo, Lake Cowichan, Ladysmith, Duncan and Greater Victoria.

The chief forester's determination is an independent professional judgment based on information ranging from technical forestry reports and public input to the government's economic and social goals. The decision takes into account environmental factors like wildlife habitat; lake, stream and wetland areas; old-growth forest and scenic areas.

The Arrowsmith decision is the 30th of 37 allowable annual cut determinations for timber supply areas in the second provincewide timber supply review. The timber supply review is a detailed and comprehensive process that ensures harvest rates sustain ecological values such as biodiversity and wildlife, as well as timber, jobs and economic benefits.

A copy of the chief forester's allowable annual cut determination for the Arrowsmith timber supply area and the summary of public input on the Arrowsmith timber supply review are available on the Ministry of Forests Web site at http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/tsb/tsr2/tsa/tsa02/tsa02.htm and at the following Forest Service offices:

- South Island forest district, 250-731-3032.

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- Vancouver forest region, 250-751-7001.

For more information on the timber supply review, visit www.for.gov.bc.ca/tsb on the Internet.

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This release is online at http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/pscripts/pab/newsrel/mofnewstitles.asp

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